

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Friday, November 18, 2005

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This past week, my administration announced a new wave of job creation in Michigan.

As part of our Jobs Today program we are accelerating over \$600 million in needed roads and infrastructure building projects, which will put 11,000 people to work.

Next, through economic incentives for businesses here at home, and through incentives to lure out-of-state businesses to Michigan, we recently convinced nine companies to invest almost half a billion dollars in our economy, creating and retaining more than fifteen hundred additional jobs.

Here are a couple of examples:

Cobra Sport Incorporated will invest 1.5 million dollars to relocate its motorcycle manufacturing facility from Ohio, to Hillsdale, Michigan, creating more than 130 new jobs in that community.

In Saginaw County, Hemlock Semiconductors will expand their existing facility, creating more than 450 new jobs there. State incentives helped convince the company to choose Michigan over a competing site in Kentucky.

By building and repairing roads and bridges, by convincing businesses to stay and to grow in Michigan, and by luring new businesses to Michigan, we're preserving jobs and creating jobs that pay the bills, put food on the table and support so many families and children across our state.

Extending these job-creating incentives is part of a larger economic plan that my administration is pursuing. I've continued to push, to prod, to insist the Legislature pass a bipartisan job creation package, a package which I outlined last February. My administration is committed to going anywhere, anytime to bring jobs and investment home to Michigan.

In fact, one year ago this past week, I led a delegation of economic development officials to Germany, to convince overseas companies to create jobs in Michigan. And this summer, I led a Michigan delegation across the Pacific to Japan, to press the case for Michigan as a great place for international businesses to expand – particularly high-tech automotive firms.

And as a result of these jobs missions, more than a dozen overseas companies have announced they will create some 2,000 jobs across the state. Now that's a great statement against outsourcing, and for the insourcing of jobs to Michigan.

Already, Michigan's been ranked as the number five friendliest state for small businesses and the number two state in the country for attracting new capital investment. That's a great testament to the work we're doing to diversify our economy and to create jobs.

But Michigan is not a number two state, or a number five state. We want to be the number one state in these categories and others.

With the challenges in our automotive industry, we have to accelerate our efforts. And that's why I'm urging the Legislature – again – to pass a bipartisan package to create jobs now. That's why we are accelerating our roads projects. That's why we are attracting businesses to Michigan. And my administration will continue to insist on urgent, bipartisan legislative action on our economic plan to create jobs today and jobs tomorrow.

Thank you for listening.